The School of Design.—The report of the committee on the School of Design, to which we directed attention in a recent number, has not greatly pleased the council. If we understand rightly, another committee has been appointed by them to confer with the Board of Trade; and Mr. Hamilton, until now an active member of the council, has resigned. We shall give next week, from the "Appendix to the Report," a letter from Dr. Cooke Taylor to Mr. Shaw Lefevre, on the nature and objects of schools of design, which merits consideration.

Projected Works, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of the Sheffield Athenæum and Mechanics' Institute; a dwelling-house and offices at Cuckfield; a pair of semi-detached villas in Twickenham-park; altering and repairing a residence at Mitcham, Surrey; rebuilding schoolmaster's house at Reston, Coldingham; erecting school-room at Tipton; new farm onstead at Chirnside, Berwickshire; vicarage house at Polluxhill, Beds; fever-house at Melton Mowbray; several works of new battery at Portsmouth; sundry works at Portland breakwater, comprising earth-works, railways, and machine houses on inclined plane from quarries; erecting buildings required by Needham Market Gas Company; erecting gas works at Alton, Hants; extending sewers 1,150 feet in Tower Hamlets; supplying 2,000 feet run of Carline nose stone kerb, or Aberdeen, Cornish, or Devon granite kerb, 12,000 feet superficial of 3-inch York paving, and 170 yards superficial of 6-inch granite crossings, all for the parish of Westham, Essex; also for maintaining permanent way and works of Maryport and Carlisle railway for three years, in three contracts or one; supplying a contractor with 100 tons second-hand, flat bottomed, temporary rails at Dumfries or a seaport near it; for a supply of 20 to 50 tons bar-iron, a supply of bars, rods, and sheets, of Stafford iron, zinc in sheets, gas-fittings, plate and other glass, &c., for the South Coast railway; and for 1,500 tons of malleable iron rails and — tons of cast-iron chairs for the Blackwall railway.

Cesspool Deposits.—A correspondent, J. G. J., desires to know whether lime when applied to soil in a cesspool causes it to deposit or sink, and how it should be applied, and of what sort; as he cannot afford to have the pool emptied for some time, though it is to all appearance full. We suspect our correspondent inadvertently identifies with mechanical subsidence chemical precipitation, and these with condensation of substance. The addition of a considerable quantity of lime to a full cesspool might cause both a chemical precipitation and a mechanical subsidence of certain ingredients of the mass, although a chemical precipitation does not necessarily imply a mechanical subsidence; but even though both results should be accomplished, still it does not follow that the cesspool would be or appear to be the less full, but the contrary; for while the more solid or condensed portion would occupy the bottom, the more fluid would still not only fill up the remainder as before, but be probably further forced into overflow from the additional bulk of lime thrown in. Had our correspondent's object been the mere neutralization of the malarious odours or fixation of the volatile gases, his purpose might have been accomplished by stirring in, or intermixing, chloride of lime or quick-lime; but in a close and covered cesspool, we suspect that the curing of an overfullness by a condensation of matter thus produced, even were it proper or practicable to any considerable extent, would occasion as much trouble and annoyance as the emptying of the pool at once.

Lighting by Electricity.—Mr. Staite's new patent electrical lamp is said to go farther than heretofore in rendering electrical light available for practical purposes, as so long desired. From a small battery power a comparatively large and steady as well as sustained light, is said to be thus produced. The inventor contemplates the application of his invention to several purposes, amongst which are telegraphing by flashes through coloured media and the instantaneous display of night signals of the usual colours for danger, caution, &c., at the required distances from the stations. Hermetically sealed, of course, under a glass, as long since suggested, this light would also be a great boon to miners.

Peel on Railways.—At the opening of the Trent Valley Railway, on the 26th ult., Sir Robert Peel said, in the course of an excellent speech:—"This day we are met to celebrate the completion of a work as part of a system which is probably destined to effect a greater social revolution than any invention since the art of printing was discovered. Without wishing to over estimate the effects which railways will have, or to say one word not dictated by prudence, I believe that they will be for our good, and that they will promote the moral and social welfare, and advance the political security of the kingdom. Within a few months our persons will be carried along this railway, our bodies with the fleetness of the wind, and our thoughts, by the agency of the telegraph, with the fleetness of lightning. Gentlemen, let us hope that these combined influences will be for our good, by drawing closer family affections and facilitating the intercourse of life, while they tend to promote civilisation and the advancement of knowledge. As regards our political security, I believe that we shall not have cause to regret their construction. In a country like this it is impossible to do more than support a limited army; and, in the event of war, which may God in his mercy avert, we might be exposed to the most fearful consequences, for it is difficult yet to say what effect steam navigation may have on maritime warfare. Of this, however, I am sure, that railways would enable us to concentrate our limited forces on any point that might be required, and I have no doubt, then, that the spirit of Englishmen would enable them to combat successfully against any enemy, even if numerically superior, by being conveyed by this new element of transport without fatigue, and well provided with necessaries. Gentlemen, it is only by drawing closer the great metropolis of the empire with the great towns, each of which may be said to form a metropolis of their districts, and getting a cheap conveyance, if we are exposed to the rivalry of other countries, that we shall be enabled successfully to compete with them; but I have no fear but by means of railways, and increased facilities of intercourse, that we shall continue successfully to compete with them, and add to the prosperity of agriculture and manufactures. I also hope that the result of bringing closer the sister country to us by railways will be to increase its prosperity, and unite us in bonds of mutual good feeling, and strengthen in us all the loyalty and affection to our gracious sovereign."

The New Church of St. Cuthbert, Bedford.—This edifice was consecrated on Thursday in last week. It is Anglo-Norman and cruciform. The nave and chancel, from east to west, are about 90 feet; the transepts, from north to south, about 65 feet. There are three entrances, the principal one being at the west end. At the intersection of the transepts, nave, and chancel, the tower is supported on massive pillars with carved capitals. The arches are carved with moulded chevron and billet moulding. The roof is framed, open, and boarded diagonally, stained dark oak, with moulded cornice at the foot of the rafters. The principal rafters form a circular rib, and are supported on columns, standing on carved corbels. The organ stands on a slight elevation at the south-west end of the nave, and the font on the opposite side; the pulpit is on the south side, at the juncture of the chancel with the nave and the transepts; and the reading desk, which, like the sittings, is open, stands on the north side, to correspond. On the right of the reader is the desk from which the clerk leads the responses. The organ-case, pulpit, communion-table with chairs, reading-desk, clerk's desk, and all the sittings, are of English oak, grown in Chicheley Park, and are all carved in the style of the building. The flooring of the nave and transepts is of plain stone from the Stagsden Quarries, but the chancel and the step at the communion rails are laid in figured encaustic tiling, by Minton, of the Potteries. The rising of the steps at the communion rails presents a continuation of the encaustic tiling. There are triple lights at the east and west, and also at the north and south ends. The east window is entirely glazed with stained glass. The whole of the stained glass is by Baillie, of London. The architect of the building was Mr. Woodroffe, of Bedford. The masonry was executed by Mr. Brown, also of Bedford; the carpenter and joiner's work by Mr. Craddock; and the carving by Mr. Pinkerton, at the Eccleston works, London.

Architects' Provisional Charges.—In the Exchequer, last week, Messrs. Finden and Green, architects and surveyors, brought an action to recover from Alderman Johnson and Mr. Marriott, as members of the managing committee of the City of London Commercial Club, 102*l.*, a balance claimed for drawing specifications and plans, and for the superintendence of building work executed for the purposes of the club. In 1838 the club in question was projected by Mr. Finden. It was opened in 1840, and was carried on until the close of 1842, when it was given up. The services for which the plaintiffs claimed compensation were performed between the month of June, 1839, and the end of that year. On giving up the club the defendants and other members of it subscribed a sum of money, sufficient to pay 10*s.* in the pound to the creditors to whom the establishment was then indebted; that composition the plaintiffs refused, but they received on account 100*l.* in two payments, leaving the balance alleged to be due. The defendants paid 10*l.* into court, and denied their liability beyond that sum. It appeared that before any portion of the work was executed, the plaintiffs, on Dec. 12, 1838, addressed a letter to the committee of management of the club, and stated that they would not make any charge or claim for any professional services done by them previously to the club being established and in operation, and it was contended that the defendants were not liable, as all the work for which the plaintiffs claimed was done "previous to the establishment of the club," and that as the plaintiffs were themselves members of the club, they could not maintain an action against other members of it, who should be considered as co-partners. These being the main facts of the case, the Lord Chief Baron left it to the jury to say whether the letter of Dec. 12 was to be taken as the agreement under which the work was done. If they thought it was, the action could not be maintained. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict for the defendants.

Exhibition of Works of Art for the New Palace.—On Tuesday, Lord Brougham presented a petition from certain artists, contributors to the exhibition of works of art now exhibiting in Westminster-hall. They complained, as we are informed, of the manner in which the prizes had been awarded, after only three days' view of a number of pictures which required a careful examination and a sifting inquiry into their respective merits, and they further urged, that, prior to an adjudication, the pictures ought to have been exhibited to the criticism of the public. The petitioners suggested that the artists of France, Germany, and Italy should have been called in as assessors before the commissioners had adjudicated, and they prayed that such a course should be taken before any person should be finally employed to decorate the walls of the new palace.

A Sanitary Association has been formed in Westminster for the diffusion of information on the subject of health and all its requisites, by means of public meetings, lectures, and otherwise, and for other cognate and laudable purposes, such as soliciting the co-operation amongst others of architects, engineers, surveyors, &c., towards the removal of those agents which injure the public health. Member's subscription, 1*l.* per annum, and upwards, or for life 5*l.* and upwards. Lord Ashley is the patron, and Lord R. Grosvenor the president.

University College Prizes.—The name of the student who obtained the second prize in fine art, at the University College, is Thomas Watts, a pupil of Mr. Eales. The third certificate of the first year's fine art class was awarded to John George Hall.

Proposed Church at Brompton, Kent.—Mr. S. W. Daukes, of Cheltenham, is the successful competitor for the proposed new church at Brompton, Chatham, Kent. We understand there were sixteen competitors.

The destruction of a footpath and narrowing of a road at Gainsborough by the erection of a bridge tunnel on the Great Northern Line, has been producing considerable excitement there. A strenuous opposition has declared itself, and the works have been stopped.

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